

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. The Poldina Foundry of the United Steel Works (SONP) at Kladno produces high-grade steel, rolled, pressed, forged, and drawn, and certain finished products. Altogether 200 to 300 different types of steel are produced. The Foundry produces all kinds of alloyed steel from the lowest grade alloyed steel up to the highest grade, such as stainless steel. In the latter grade, however, because of the acute shortage of the necessary ferroalloys, a very small annual tonnage is turned out. It is estimated fairly confidently that this is not more than a few hundred tons a year. A small plant at Hradek supplements the Foundry's production of special steels.
2. All steel of top quality is produced only on orders of the Ministry of National Defense. Armor plate is also manufactured for the Ministry of National Defense, but the amounts are not known. The solid shafts for gun barrels are also manufactured here, but they are bored in other works.
3. Examples of products manufactured by the Poldina Foundry are as follows:
 - Boilers and boiler equipment.
 - Drilling equipment, such as bits.
 - Drawing dies.
 - Crucibles.
 - Springs.
 - Small forged crankshafts for tractors, tanks, etc.
 - High-grade drawn wire.
 - Super-heaters.
 - Welded tubes.
 - Tool joints for drilling.

4. There are a number of electric furnaces and Siemens-Martin furnaces. It is not known when all of these were erected but it is not thought that there has been any great addition to the plant in recent years. An important point is that high-quality steel can now be partly manufactured by the Siemens-Martin process, as in Germany.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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Initial experiments in this respect at the Poldina Foundry have proved successful and, when this process is extended, it will be a decisive factor in lowering costs and increasing production.

5. Three full shifts are being worked at the Foundry. No confident estimate can be made of the number of workers employed. At present the works operate at 100 percent capacity. Output will naturally increase in high-quality steel when the Siemens-Martin process is fully applied.

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6. Practically the whole of the output from the Poldina Foundry is used by the Czechoslovak engineering industry. A proportion of it, which cannot be estimated, is used in the armament industry.

7. There is a lack of skilled labor, which is a defect common to the iron and steel industry as a whole. Otherwise no special factors are known which limit output.

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